



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

J.  
M/47/007

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Robert L. Morgan  
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801  
(801) 538-5340 telephone  
(801) 359-3940 fax  
(801) 538-7223 TTY  
www.nr.utah.gov

November 18, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist *PAB*

RE: Site Inspection, S F Phosphate, Vernal Phosphate Operation, M/047/007 and E/047/048, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 21, 2002  
Time of Inspection: 12:30 to 2:30 PM  
Conditions: Mostly cloudy, 80's  
Participants: Chris McCourt, SF Phosphate; Paul Baker, DOGM

**Purpose of Inspection:**

The primary purposes were to look at a water well site where the operator had requested release and to look at a cliff spall on Big Brushy Creek.

**Observations:**

The well was never drilled, so although we went to the site where it was proposed to be drilled, there was really nothing to look at.

Mr. McCourt had reported a cliff spall into Big Brushy Creek, and we were able to look at it from a distance (see Photo 1). The spall originated from a point near some mined areas but not directly connected with them. Material from the spall has dammed the creek as can be seen in the lower circled portion of Photo 1.

In addition to looking at these two items, Mr. McCourt gave me a general tour of some of the mine so I could better understand the operation.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The Division should retire the water well exploration notice of intention (E/047/048).

Mining near the spall occurred several years ago, so although there is a chance that blasting loosened some of the rock and induced the spall, it could also have been completely natural. In either case, I do not believe there is any danger to the public, and the pond created by the spall may enhance wildlife habitat.

In general, the operator has had good revegetation success, but areas that were seeded in 2001 may need to be reseeded. The area has been in a severe drought which has hindered plant establishment.

jb

cc: Chris McCourt, SF Phosphate  
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**ATTACHMENT**  
**November 19, 2002**  
**Photographs**  
**S/047/007, SF Phosphate, Vernal Phosphate Operation**



**Photo 1. Cliff spall into Big Brushy Creek. The lower circled area shows a small pool of water created by the spall. The upper marked area is an area that was mined.**